

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 23 and 30 are pending in the present application. Claim 30 is amended, and Claims 22, 24-29, and 31-35 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

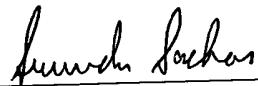
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 22, 24-29, 31-33, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Bedini (U.S. Patent No. 4,644,422); Claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bendini; Claim 23 was allowed; and Claim 30 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 23 and 30. Accordingly, Claim 23 is maintained in its present independent form, and Claim 30 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 29. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 23 and 30 are in condition for formal allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No: 34,423

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

GJM/RFC/KLL/CAC
I:\ATTY\SAE\PROSECUTION\9655-0001\9655-0001-2US-AM 09-03-04.DOC